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# STARTFORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

for the Year ended  
31st December, 1960

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**M. R. MORRISON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.**



TO THE CHAIRMAN, LADIES & GENTLEMEN,  
OF THE STARTFORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the health of the District for the year ended 31st December, 1960.

The mid-year population, as estimated by the Registrar General, was 4,930, an increase of 740 on that for the year 1959, presumably due to changes in military personnel.

The total number of births was 72, there being 4 infantile deaths of children under one year of age, but no maternal deaths during the year under review.

Deaths totalled 48, (40 in 1959), giving a death rate of 11.29, which is lower than that for England and Wales at 11.50.

Principal causes of death were - 14 heart diseases (14 in 1959), 5 from cancer, (10 in 1959), 11 from vascular diseases of the nervous system (9 in 1959), one from respiratory tuberculosis, three from pneumonia, and 2 from other circulatory diseases were recorded.

Five cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year, compared with 44 in 1959, these were two cases of scarlet fever, two cases of measles and one case of non-paralytic poliomyelitis.

There were no notifications of tuberculosis in the District during the year.

Sewerage & Sewage Disposal, Housing and Water Supply

These matters are dealt with by the Public Health Inspector in his report, and which follows.

Dr. Gavin, who had been Medical Officer of Health since 1st September, 1953, died suddenly on the 19th September, 1960. I did not, of course, know him but wish to put on record the affectionate regard and respect in which he was held by all the staff, who miss him sadly. The post remained vacant till the writer took up the duties on 1st June, 1961.

I wish to thank Mr. Hunter, Public Health Inspector, and Mr. Shelton, Chief Clerk, and other members of the staff for their co-operation and assistance since I arrived.

H. R. MORRISON,  
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

# PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

F. W. Gavin, M.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (DIED 19.9.1960)

Public Health Inspector :

C. D. Hunter, D.P.A., M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.I.

# GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of the District in acres .. .. .	97,630
Resident Population, mid-year estimate ..	4,930
Number of inhabited houses .. .. .	1,437
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1960 .. ..	£76,004
Sum represented by penny rate .. .. .	£312.16..
Rate in £ levied at 1st April, 1960 for half year .. .. .	9/-d.

# VITAL STATISTICS

## Births

The number of live births registered during the year was 72, as against 68 in 1959. The birth rate comparisons show that the rate for the District is higher than for the rest of England and Wales.

## Birth Rate Comparisons

Live Births per 1,000 population as adjusted by Comparability Factor.  
Still Births per 1,000 total live and stillbirths.

	<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Stillbirths</u>
Startforth Rural District 1960	18.47	13.90
Startforth Rural District 1959	17.37	14.49
England and Wales	17.10	19.70

## Analysis of Births

Live Births :-

	1960		1959	
	M	F	M	F
Legitimate .. .. .	40	28	41	23
Illegitimate .. .. .	-	4	3	1
Totals	40	32	44	24



Still Births :-

				1960		1959	
				M	F	M	F
Legitimate .. .. .				-	1	-	1
Illegitimate .. .. .				-	-	-	-
Totals				-	1	-	1

Deaths

Maternal Mortality No maternal deaths were registered in the District during the year as in 1959, 1958, 1957.

Infantile Mortality Four children under one year died in the District during 1960, as against one in 1959.

Infantile Mortality comparisons per, 1,000 live births

Startforth Rural District, 1960 .. .. .	5.55
Startforth Rural District, 1959 .. .. .	14.70
England and Wales, 1960 .. .. .	21.70

Deaths from All Causes During 1960 there were 48 deaths from all causes registered in the District, as against 40 in 1959. The death rate being very slightly lower than that for England and Wales:

Death Rate Comparisons

Death Rate per 1,000 population as adjusted by Comparability Factor

Startforth Rural District, 1960 .. .. .	11.29
Startforth Rural District, 1959 .. .. .	9.55
England and Wales, 1960 .. .. .	11.50

Causes of all Deaths - Compared with 1959

				1959.		1960.	
				M	F	M	F
Tuberculosis, Respiratory .. .. .				-	1	-	1
" Other .. .. .				-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach .. .. .				-	2	1	1
" " Lung, bronchus .. .. .				-	-	-	-
" " Breast .. .. .				-	2	-	-
" " Uterus .. .. .				-	-	-	-
Other malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasm				1	4	2	1
Leukemia .. .. .				-	1	-	-
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ..				5	4	4	7
Coronary Diseases, Angina .. .. .				5	2	5	5
Hypertension with Heart Disease .. ..				-	-	-	-
Other Heart Diseases .. .. .				2	5	1	3
Other Circulatory Diseases .. .. .				2	2	2	-
Pneumonia .. .. .				-	2	3	-
Bronchitis .. .. .				-	-	1	-
Other Diseases of Respiratory System				-	-	1	-
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum .. .. .				1	-	1	-
Hypertension of Prostate .. .. .				-	-	1	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases				-	-	-	4
Motor Vehicle Accidents .. .. .				-	-	1	-
All Other Accidents .. .. .				-	-	2	-
Suicide .. .. .				-	-	1	-
Totals				16	25	26	22

Number of Deaths from the Seven Chief Causes  
Rates and Comparisons with Previous Year

	per 1,000 population			
	1959		1960	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Cancer .. .. .	10	2.39	5	1.015
Respiratory (non-Tuberculosis) .. .. .	1	.24	5	1.015
Heart Diseases .. .. .	14	3.34	14	2.84
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary .. .. .	1	.24	1	.20
Tuberculosis - Non-Pulmonary .. .. .	-	-	-	.00
Other Circulatory Diseases .. .. .	4	.95	2	.40
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System .. .. .	9	2.15	11	2.23
Totals .. ..	39	9.31	38	7.70

Infectious Diseases There were 5 cases of notifiable and/or infectious diseases reported during 1960, as against 44 in 1959.

Analysis of Infectious Diseases and  
Comparisons with Previous Year's

	1959	1960
	no. of Cases	no. of Cases
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	5	2
Acute Pneumonia .. .. .	2	-
Influenza .. .. .	-	-
Erysipelas .. .. .	1	-
Sonne Dysentery .. .. .	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia .. .. .	-	-
Whooping Cough .. .. .	6	-
Measles .. .. .	30	2
Non-paralytic polio .. .. .	-	1
Totals .. ..	<u>44</u>	<u>5</u>

Tuberculosis

No new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year.

Deaths from Tuberculosis One death from this disease was registered in the District in 1960 as against one from this cause in 1959.

Vaccinations and Immunisations

The following vaccinations and immunisations were carried out in 1960 and compared with those one in the previous year.

	1959		1960	
	0-5 years	Over 5	0-5 years	Over 5
Successful Vaccinations	41	26	42	14
Completed course of immunisation	76	14	88	55

Vaccinations against Poliomyelitis At the end of December, 1960 870 children in the District had received three injections against poliomyelitis.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT, 1946

- Section 22. Care of Mothers and Young Children
- Section 23. Domiciliary Midwifery.
- Section 24. Health Visiting.
- Section 25. Home Nursing.

Three District Nurse/Midwives employed by the North Riding County Council carry out the duties required by the above sections. There is one Infant Welfare Centre in the District - at Barningham, which is under the jurisdiction of the County Council and is attended by the District Medical Officer and the District Nurse/Midwife for that area; full advantage being taken of the facilities offered.

The following number of visits paid to the patients in the District by the Nurse/Midwife during 1960 under the respective categories are compared with those for 1959 :-

<u>Category</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>
Domiciliary		
Midwifery .. .. .	1116	1477
Home Nursing .. .. .	2330	2761
Health Visiting .. .. .	2097	1841

Section 27 - Ambulance Service This service is provided by the North Riding County Council from the Ambulance Station which has a staff of one Driver-Foreman, one Shift leader and five driver/attendants, and with the assistance of the Hospital Car.

Section 28 - Prevention of Illness, Care and After-care The work of vaccination and immunisation, together with the advice spread by those working in the Public Health Service, Inspectors, Midwives, Maternity and Child Welfare Officers, Doctors and Nurses, must all have a beneficial effect on the general health of the community.

Section 29 - Domestic Help Service This is a service provided by the North Riding County Council and during 1960 13 cases received help, as compared with 10 in 1959, the analysis and comparison with 1959 being :-

<u>Category</u>	<u>Cases</u>		<u>Hours</u>	
	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>
Domiciliary Confinement	1	1	40	69
Chronic Sick .. .. .	7	12	1647	7085
Sick Housewife .. .. .	2	-	538	-
Tuberculosis .. .. .	-	-	-	-
Totals .. .. .	10	13	2225	7154



The Public Health work of the District has been carried out as usual by Mr. C. D. Hunter, the Public Health Inspector and I now thank him for his kind co-operation since I arrived and for the completion of this Report.

### Nuisance Inspection.

Total Number of Inspections for Nuisances only .. ..	75
Total Number of Nuisances found .. .. .	22
Number of Statutory Notices served .. .. .	3
Number of Informal Notices served .. .. .	18

### Public Cleansing

During the year a scavenging service operated throughout the area and only a small number of the remote out-lying premises were not served. From the greater part of the area refuse is collected weekly, although in a few places a fortnightly service meets the requirements, whilst at the Military Establishment in Startforth a twice weekly collection is made.

All refuse is conveyed to one refuse tip which is situated in the parish of Mickleton where a semi-controlled system is operated and Ministry of Health Recommendations followed so far as is possible. Two Karrier Refuse Vehicles and five men are employed on the service and the total annual cost is £3,119. 0s. 0d.

### Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

	<u>No. of Register</u>	<u>No. of Inspections</u>
Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are enforced by Local Authority .. .. .	12	24
Factories not included above in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority .. .. .	8	9
Other Premises in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	15	46

### Inspection and Supervision of Food

Twenty shops are registered, most of which are general stores. Nine of these are licensed to store ice cream for sale.

Three privately owned slaughterhouses are registered and 159 visits for meat inspection were made during the year. The following tables shows the details of the carcasses inspected during the year.



The meat slaughtered was of a uniformly high standard of quality and the amount condemned a very small percentage of the whole.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	316	-	365	1,607	144	-
Number Inspected	316	-	365	1,598	144	-
<u>All diseases edcept Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u> Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	28	-	1	13	5	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	8.86	-	.274	.813	3.472	-
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u> Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u> Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigera- tion	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and Totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

### Moveable Dwellings

There is one licensed caravan site in the area. This site is licensed for a maximum of 175 caravans and was, in fact, occupied by approximately 150 caravans and was maintained in a satisfactory condition. An unlicensed site exists in the Parish of Startforth on which has been stationed approximately 26 caravans and on which conditions have not been entirely satisfactory. In addition there is a small number of isolated caravans in various parts of the District. The introduction of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, will do much to raise the standard existing on sites and to remove difficulties and anomalies prevalent with the previous legislation. At the end of 1960 a comprehensive review of caravanning in the District was in progress.

### Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The Council owns modern treatment works at Cotherstone and Mickleton, both of which villages are provided with satisfactory systems of sewers. The disposal works at Barningham, Bowes and Startforth are inadequate and largely obsolete and the villages of Boldron, Holwick, Hutton Magna, Lartington and Ovington have no sewers or disposal works.

The work on the Sewage Disposal Scheme for the village of Romalldkirk was commenced in March, 1960, and at the end of the year was almost complete and the works were, in fact, in partial operation. Administrative difficulties have continued to delay the scheme for the village of Startforth but it is now anticipated that sufficient progress will be made to enable the schemes to start in 1961. The schemes for Barningham and Bowes reached a more advanced stage of preparation during the year and it is hoped that work on these two, in addition to Startforth, will start during 1961. Preliminary details are also being prepared on the next two schemes in the Council's Programme, i.e. Ovington and Boldron. Work will start on these as soon as possible.

### Water Supply

The parishes of Mickleton, Cotherstone, Romalldkirk, Lartington, Barforth and Ovington are supplied by the Tees Valley and Cleveland Water Board the parish of Startforth by the Urban District Council of Barnard Castle. The Council operates undertakings in the parishes of Barningham, Boldron, Bowes, Holwick, Hutton Magna and Hunderthwaite.

The constructional work in connection with the last-mentioned undertaking was completed during the year. Further discussions have taken place in connection with the regrouping of water undertakings with a view to the Tees Valley and Cleveland Water Board becoming the water authority for the whole of the district. It is anticipated that this regrouping will take place on the 1st April, 1962.

During the year, in addition to the small scheme at Hunderthwaite, work was commenced on the provision of a water supply scheme for the combined villages of Bowes and Boldron. Work has proceeded satisfactorily on this and it is probable that the supply will be put into operation during the summer of 1961.

Negotiations have taken place with the Tees Valley and Cleveland Water Board and it is hoped to carry out schemes in the near future to provide improved water supplies in the parishes of Egglestone Abbey, Rokeby, Thorpe, Wycliffe and Hutton Magna.

During the year twenty-nine samples of water were submitted for bacteriological examination; of which fifteen were satisfactory and fourteen unsatisfactory. Where an unsatisfactory report was received for a sample from a public supply an immediate investigation into the cause was made and remedial measures taken.

### Housing

The Council owns eighty-six Council Houses, six of which were erected in the inter-war years. They also own four bungalows which were converted from the former Infectious Diseases Isolation Hospital with assistance under the Housing Act, 1949, and six old people's bungalows. It is hoped to erect further old people's bungalows in the near future.

During the year applications have been received for standard improvement grants and nineteen grants were approved. Applications from property owners for discretionary improvement grants were received and considered on their merits. During 1960 seven applications were approved.







